

LITTLE FEAR OF A CONTEST.

Lawyers Say William Astor's Heirs Will Abide by His Will.

Mrs. Drayton and Henry Astor the Only Possible Contestants.

Now that the provisions of William Astor's will have been made public, there is a good deal of curiosity as to whether the executors will have any contests on their hands. The only members of the testator's family likely to object to the disposition of his property are Mrs. Coleman Drayton, who is absolutely cut out from all share in her father's estate by the latest codicil of the will and Henry Astor, William's brother, who is expressly disinherited.

A provision of the will was that if any of his beneficiaries could or refused to accept its provisions he or she shall forfeit all benefit from the will. This, of course, would not affect Mrs. Drayton should she contest, because she is already disinherited. Nor would it affect the rights of her children, whom the shares in the estate originally assigned to her have been given.

It is stated in the codicil reciting that portion of the will which provides for Mrs. Drayton in the same manner as Mr. Astor's other daughters that he has made other and ample provision for her. But that provision is executors will not say, but it is supposed to be a special trust erected by her father before his death and after her recent domestic troubles which created so great a scandal.

In such a case it is not improbable that any attempt upon Mrs. Drayton's part to contest the will would result in the forfeiture of that special provision to which allusion is made in the will.

William Astor gave \$100,000 to his daughter at the time of her marriage to J. Coleman Drayton, and some believe that this is the provision referred to. It yields her an income of about \$10,000 a year. There is a rumor that an additional sum was given to her brother, John Jacob Astor, sufficient for Mrs. Drayton's ample support.

With regard to Henry Astor the language of the will is very explicit. The testator says:

It is my will and intention that neither my brother, Henry Astor, nor his issue, as heirs-at-law or next of kin receive any portion of my estate, and any such portion to which he or they would be entitled by intestacy shall be given to the trustees of the Astor Library for the corporate purposes of the said institution.

The only contingency, apparently, under which Henry Astor would be entitled to share in the distribution of William Astor's estate, would be in case the testator's will was revoked. In such contingency, Henry Astor might be entitled to share in the estate received by William Astor from his father, William H. Astor, as this was in its terms a life estate with the power of devising it by will.

Henry Astor married a country girl and is living happily with her family in a remote part of Columbia County. He received a comfortable fortune from his father and grandfather, and is said to be perfectly satisfied with his present circumstances.

The lawyers say that there will be no contest. Mrs. Drayton is reported as saying that she will live with her mother, and that they will probably spend most of their time in Europe during the next two years.

Since the funeral, Thursday, Mrs. Astor has remained in strict seclusion. She is at the house of her son, Jack, Astor, at 474 Fifth Avenue. Mrs. Coleman Drayton is living with her.

Mother and daughter will return together to Europe in a short time, and it is announced that they will go to southern France and remain at least a year with Mr. and Mrs. Franklin H. Delano, the latter the sister of William Astor.

John Jacob Astor and his wife will spend the early summer at Rinebeck and afterwards go to Newport, but will not entertain. William Waldorf Astor will remain at his home in London. For the next two years, at least, very little will be seen of any of the Astor family in society.

AN IMPROMPTU DUEL.

Four Men Wounded in a Kentucky Street Shooting.

FRANKFORT, Ky., May 14.—In a shooting affray between John T. Johnson and Charles Owens on the street here, four men were killed, Johnson separated Owens and his wife six years ago.

When the 1:20 Louisville train came in, on which was Johnson, Owens, who had been waiting for him, walked up and said:

"Look out! You have killed my family and I am going to kill you."

Before Owens could draw his pistol Johnson fired the ball taking effect in Owens's abdomen.

Owens then fired six shots. The first took effect in Johnson's right arm, the second struck Johnson's left arm, the third the left hand and the fourth the left leg. Johnson, Anthony Leach, a wealthy farmer. The next shot struck a telegraph pole that was situated by Johnson.

After emptying his revolver Owens rushed at Johnson and fired a shot in his head with the butt of the weapon.

Johnson then fired his second shot, which hit Owens's left leg. Owens then walked to his hotel. Owens died. Some months ago Johnson, in this country, shot and killed four men, but was acquitted.

ARMED MEN IN SWARMS.

Riding About the Scenes of the Wyoming Cattle War.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., May 14.—Charles Carter, who was sent to Johnson County as the successor of Princeton May, 14.—When the case of Horace L. Aaronson, charged with forgery, came up for hearing in court here today his former partner, Howard W. Parker, who disappeared a year ago, appeared as a witness against Aaronson.

He testified that each of them had been engaged in extensive forgeries while in partnership. Aaronson had been the forger, and Parker had been the counterfeiter. Aaronson had been arrested and had since been in the hands of the law.

Both men are locked up. It is said that the prosecuting attorney would like to have Aaronson and Parker in the hands of the law.

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A NEW AMERICAN SONG BIRD.

She Displays a Voice of Phenomenal Compass in London.

Kyle Bellows's Dramatic Poem First Heard in Manchester.

LONDON, May 14.—Miss Sullivan is generally making rapid progress towards recovery, but the varying changes in her condition render it impossible to hope for a speedy resumption of work upon her new opera. The work was about three-quarters completed when Mr. Sullivan's illness brought all the preparations for rehearsal to a standstill. The production of the opera has now been postponed until September.

Miss Evangeline Florence, a young American soprano, made her debut at Miss Marjorie's concert at St. George's Hall on Wednesday. Her voice was nothing short of phenomenal. In the cadenza of Alabert's Russian Nightingale song she proved that she possessed a voice of extreme compass. There was nothing remarkable about this, as Miss Florence will undergo a course of study with Mr. Henschel.

Sir Augustus Harris has secured Miss. Maudie and Miss. Maudie for his forthcoming opera season at Covent Garden Theatre.

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MILLIONS FROM CITY FUNDS.

New Laws Which Dip Deep Into New York's Treasury.

The Ward's Island Purchase Bill and Park Policy Pensioners.

City officials this morning estimated that it would cost the city \$2,000,000 to comply with the provisions of the bill enacted yesterday. The bill would require the city to pay the cost of the purchase of the island to the pensioners. The bill would also require the city to pay the cost of the purchase of the island to the pensioners.

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CRUSHED TO DEATH ON THE L.

Switchman Morton Knocked Off a Third Avenue Motor.

Fell Across the Rails and Was Run Over by the Wheels of a Car.

James Morton, a switchman, employed on the Third Avenue line, of the Elevated Road, was crushed to death this morning by the wheels of a car. The car was running on the Third Avenue line, of the Elevated Road, and was crushed to death by the wheels of a car.

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DO VANDERBILTS WANT THE L?

They or the Traction Company Believed to Be Clucking for It.

Russell Sage Will Not Deny that a "L" Has Been Made.

Every one in Wall street today is trying to find out what there is in the "L" which the Metropolitan Traction Company has bought up so many of the street-car lines in this city. It is now after Mr. Sage's Elevated Railroad system.

Neither George Gould nor Russell Sage, who represent the Metropolitan Traction Company, will deny the story that a "L" has been made for their stock, and that, together with the fact that there has been an active demand in the market for some time past for Manhattan shares, has given color to the report.

William C. Whitney, former Payee and Col. Dan S. Lamont, who are the leading lights of the Traction Company, are all out of town, and the story therefore lacks confirmation from authoritative sources.

President John D. Crumrine, of the Traction Company, was found this morning, and he emphatically denied that his company had made any offer for Mr. Gould's Elevated Railroad stock, or had any desire to purchase the property.

The Traction Company has all it can attend to at the present time, he said, "building the street-car lines, and it has no intention of acquiring any other enterprises. You can get the story down, I think as a calumny which is being circulated for stock-jobbing purposes."

The belief, however, in Wall street is positive that a "L" has been made for the stock of the Traction Company, and that the "L" is a report to the Metropolitan Traction Company, which is estimated to be worth \$100,000,000.

It is stated that an offer to take all of the Metropolitan Traction Company's stock, at a price of \$100,000,000, was made last night. The offer was made by a person who is believed to be a stock-jobber.

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